

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Marion County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- FMU Center for Excellence participation-on-going basis
- Ruby Payne Training Initiative
- ESL classes-Adult Education
- GED, Pre – GED - Adult Education
- Teacher retention bonuses
- Parent coordinators at each school and home/school connection
- Offering full day 4K program
- Center of Excellence (FMU)
- Adjusting instructional program to meet individual student needs (gear up, etc.)
- Graduate program for teachers
- Adjusted instructional day (start time)
- Provide computers to parents
- Expand Family Literacy programs
- Adult Education meeting needs of Hispanic families
- Services provided through DHEC
- Professional development for teachers
- Alternative school program
- Adult Education programs
- After school programs in faith based institutions
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse counseling
- *Palmetto Education Center*
 1. Pre 4 yr old program
 2. Parent center with /PAC
 3. Intervention Academy for older kids
 4. Credit recovery – online
 5. Partnership with FMU Center of Excellence
 6. Collaboration with Winthrop University to train administrators
 7. Coker at night – Mullins Tech. Center
 8. Florence Darlington Tech – Mullins Tech. Center
 9. Homework Center/ after school program
 10. Parents as teachers
- Parenting programs, family activities
- Career counseling in middle grades
- Center of Excellence – working with students of poverty
- Literacy night, standards workshops
- Volunteers from industry, mentors
- Using results from MAP testing to individualize instruction

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Have programs – need publicity; communication
- Difficult to compete with neighboring counties; recruitment/retention
- Lack of role models for students
- Education teacher pool/ fewer going into the profession
- Ensure heterogeneous grouping
- Salary of first year teachers to recruit and ongoing salary to retain quality teachers
- Equity among districts
- Lack of business resources
- Declining enrollment
- Parents have limited time, energy, education, and resources
- Population that doesn't value education
- Resistance to change
- Many agencies competing for same resources
- Losing African American males
- State transfers responsibility for meeting these goals to communities without the resources to meet the goals
- State sets all regulations without much local input (teacher, administration, etc.)
- Inadequate funding (equitable funding)
- Space
- Teacher shortage
- poverty cycle (*"poverty" interpretation- census vs. "free-lunch"*)
- competition for funding
- recruitment of qualified personnel (espanol minorities)
- shortage of childcare and after school services
- economic factors
- employment of parents outside community
- teachers not trained in issues of poverty
- teacher retention
- teacher/student ratio
- health issues/ special needs of students
- trust issues between school/ families

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Communication in the community
- Parent education
- Ability to work with diversity- varying educational needs- ESL; special education
- Citizens need to be politically active to support system
- Brainstorm/ collaborate to support economic development
- Establish stronger community relations (mentors, businesses, and industries)
- Mentoring programs
- Meeting between agencies to better coordinate services
- State leadership can not pass all responsibility to local entities for meeting goals, local must speak up.
- Engage all elements of the community
- Public Relations – all of community needs to know what is available
- Share existing resources
- Keep our politicians informed – engaged
- Business collaborations/ Faith community
- Moral support to schools/ education
- Increase involvement
- Involvement of faith-based community
- Involvement of businesses, industry

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Keep in touch with politicians/ be an advocate
- Reach out to the children
- Show your interest and concern
- Encourage others to share responsibility
- Take school- based programs into the community
- Mentoring
- Positive support as we go out in communities
- Grant writing (for technology)
- Communication with legislators
- As teachers and administrators have positive contact with parents